



DINA TITUS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
1ST DISTRICT NEVADA

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

May 3, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

I am writing in regards to the announcement made on February 6, 2018, by the Director of the National Exposure Research Laboratory concerning the expedited closure of the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) laboratory in my District in Las Vegas. This decision moves the closure date from the end of the current lease of September 2020 to September of this year.

That announcement coincided with a new decision to close the EPA's Office of Administration and Resources Management Las Vegas Human Resources Shared Services Center. This leaves nearly 70 employees and EPA contractors searching for answers and facing early retirement, relocation, or resignation. These individuals include a number of employees of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, also located in District One.

Given the serious decisions facing so many of my constituents, I request a response to the following questions:

1. What was the evaluation used to determine the closure of this laboratory facility?
2. Why was the closure expedited to September 2018 from September 2020?
3. What will happen to the research projects currently underway at this facility?
4. What assistance is being provided to these employees?
5. What is the status of the Office of Air and Radiation's Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory which is located in a neighboring facility?
6. Section 104(e) of the Clean Water Act requires the EPA Administrator to establish, equip, and maintain a field laboratory research facility specifically in the "southwestern area" of the United States "for the conduct of research, investigations, experiments, field demonstrations and studies, and training relating

to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution." Furthermore, each facility shall be "located near institutions of higher learning in which graduate training in such research might be carried out." What other EPA facility in the Southwest fits this criteria?

Again, these facilities are located in my District, and many of these employees are my constituents; they deserve transparency in this decision-making. Accordingly, I would appreciate your quick response to these important questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dina Titus", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dina Titus
Member of Congress